

REMARKS

The present amendment and request for reconsideration is filed in response to the final Office Action mailed March 5, 2008. Claims 108 and 110-118 are pending in the application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has requested that Claims 119-124 be withdrawn as being directed to non-elected subject matter. Applicants have withdrawn Claims 119-124, as requested by the Examiner.

The specification was objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to support the subject matter set forth in the claims. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that the limitations "providing a virtual trading floor for registered members to trade the stock, options, or futures" and "registering members of the virtual trading floor" we are not described in the specification. In addition, Claims 108 and 110-118 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written restriction requirement for the same reasons. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants are unsure of which portion of the recited phrases the Examiner believes are unsupported by the specification. Applicants respectfully submit that the term "virtual trading floor" as used in the claims is readily understood by those of ordinary skill in the art to refer to a perceived device or service operated by a computer and not a physical trading floor. For example, the Microsoft Computer Dictionary, 5th Edition, © 2002, defines virtual as "of or pertaining to a device or service that is perceived to be what is not in actuality." The embodiments illustrated on pages 16 and 17 of the application describe a "virtual interactive trading floor" that allows participants to become odds-makers and place wagers on any event they choose to without going through an intermediate, as well as a "virtual online bank." Each of these embodiments is implemented with a server-based computer system, as shown in FIGURES 1-8 and described on pages 5-12 of the application. Therefore, although applicants submit that the term "virtual trading floor" is well understood by those of ordinary skill in the art,

applicants are amending the claims to indicate that the trading floor is server-based, to align with the language used in the specification. See page 5, lines 15-20, of the application.

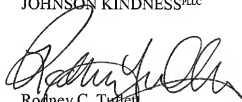
Support for the phrases "for registered members to trade the stocks, options or futures" and "registering members for the server-based trading floor" can be found in the specification at least on page 13, line 29, "Another embodiment is the trading of 'entertainment' stocks, options and futures . . ." and page 14, line 1, "registration is required to become a member of the trade floor, and members are assigned an account number . . ." See also page 16, line 22, "A participant must register to become a member of the trading floor . . ." Because the specification fully supports the claims as amended, it is therefore requested that the Examiner withdraw the objections to the specification and to Claims 108 and 110-118.

In light of the above, it is submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. It is therefore requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and pass this case to issue.

If the Examiner has any additional questions regarding the application, he is invited to call applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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